

COLORADO AWARDED \$13.6 MILLION GRANT TO IMPROVE CARE COORDINATION FOR MEDICARE-MEDICAID ENROLLEES

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DENVER – June 17, 2014 - The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today it has received a \$13.6 million grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a new program designed to better coordinate care for members who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. The State Demonstration to Integrate Care for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees (Demonstration) will integrate and coordinate physical, behavioral and social health needs for Medicare-Medicaid members. Colorado is one of six states to receive CMS implementation grants and expects to begin enrolling members into this new initiative later this summer.

"Historically, there has been a lack of coordination of services for people insured by both Medicare and Medicaid, sometimes including duplicative, unnecessary tests," said Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN, executive director. "This grant allows Colorado to coordinate our members' care, while achieving greater value and health outcomes for our citizens who are on both Medicare and Medicaid."

Colorado Medicaid members who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid comprise approximately seven percent of the Department's Medicaid enrollment, but account for 29 percent of the state's costs. Colorado's plan to implement this initiative builds on the infrastructure, resources and provider network found in the <u>Accountable Care Collaborative</u> (ACC) Program, which connects Medicaid members with providers, community and social services to help meet their needs.

This new grant will allow the Department to provide access to coordinated care for more than 50,000 Medicare-Medicaid members through the ACC. More than 50 percent of Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries are over 65 years old, and more than 60 percent of beneficiaries have multiple, chronic health conditions.

"We have been actively working with our partners and stakeholders in preparation for this grant and are excited to implement what we've been working toward for many months," said Suzanne Brennan, Colorado Medicaid director. "The ACC will partner closely with the Department's strong network of Long-Term Services and Supports providers and community organizations, and our members will receive a person-centered, coordinated approach to their unique health care needs."

Click here for more information on the Demonstration project.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans who qualify. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the Department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.